



Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture

Date: December 1, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Location: Zoom

Minutes

Attending: Stewart Ikeda, Brian McMurray, Edward Blundell, Steve Poltorzycki, Sarah Morgan-Wu

Absent: Tom Formicola, Tom Davison, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Christine Noah, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Lidia Kenig-Scherr

Guests: Cecily Miller, Edward Blundell, Nicole Cuff

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

1) ROLL CALL

2) APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

- Minutes could not be voted on so will be approved in next meeting.

3) FUN COMM UPDATE

- Christine Noah has sent the annual appeal letter with a photosheet of recent ArtsArlington activities out to 54 past donors and additional prospects suggested by Committee members. So far 3 donations totaling \$3,200 have been received, including an especially generous donation from Bonnie Payne in honor of Nilou Moochhala and Cecily Miller. All three donors either matched or increased from previous donations.
- The committee has received a grant from the MCC Cultural District Initiative as part of the renewal of our Cultural District status.

4) POET LAUREATE

- Lidia can't join this evening but sent a written update that the deadline for the Poet Laureate applications had been extended and the committee has now received some applicants. Will expect an update at the next meeting.

5) ANNUAL REPORT

- We've received notice that the Annual Report is due January 17, 2023, meaning one more meeting to discuss as a Commission. One task for Commissioners to do is to add to the brag sheet of accomplishments in 2022 of the Commission. Additionally we need to confirm all of the active Commission and Committee members and the lengths of their remaining appointments.

6) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATES

- The Climate Futures celebration event is Sunday, December 4 from 2-4pm. The event will have several speakers and live music and will be MC'd by Stewart. There will also be artwork on display. Lidia will be at the art wall to help introduce the work to visitors. Cecily is looking for volunteers to be at a greeting table. There will be food donated by Za Pizza and Dominos, Cecily is looking for a volunteer to be able to pick up food and deliver it to the venue.

- The first public mural meeting happened recently and went well. A recording of the meeting is available here: <https://vimeo.com/774857625>. Topics discussed included where public murals could be in town, should there be a mural in the Cultural District celebrating the district, could we have a mural on the street or on a flight of stairs etc. There will be a live meeting on December 17th.
- Portraits of Black Arlington project has officially transformed to the Black Joy Project / Black Joy Arlington MA and will have a series of events coming up. Stephanie McKay has joined the project as a co-administrator along with several others. We'll continue to collaborate with DEI Director Jillian Harvey and Crystal Haynes of AHRC

7) REV 250 PLANNING

- In the last meeting it was suggested that we should spend a few minutes every meeting.
- Stewart met with Eric Helmuth, Selectboard, who expressed his interest in working with us. John Hurd, Selectboard, has also launched a Rev250 committee as well. Eric has offered to be a representative of the Selectboard on the Murals Project as that project matures. Eric also mentioned he would love to get a great piano for Town Hall and study the acoustics to help it become a better concert venue – a project ACAC would be well-suited to support.
- Any commissioners who have a specific interest in tourism and business and would be interested in being a Liaison to the Arlington Tourism and Economic Development committee, please get in touch with Stewart. ACAC should work collaboratively with tourism and historical entities in Town to plan and implement impactful 250 programs.
- Steve suggests that we should work to put together a budget proposal to the Town to support Rev250 activities, rather than wait for the Town to form the ideas on their own and for the ACAC to start researching opportunities for funding the Commission or the Town can seek.

8) NEW COMMISSIONERS AND TALENT

- ACAC will see up to three commissioner vacancies next year as some members have left or will have terms expire, so we need to discuss needs, priorities, and what if any changes to original bylaws about appointments and terms might need to be made
- Tom D and Stephanie will be stepping away from being Commissioners. We're down several Commissioner spots which are creating struggles to reach quorum
- Talent Pipeline: Cecily reminds us that there are some great people on the Community Advisory Group and wonders how we might recruit some of them to join the Commission.
- Getting folks to participate in hands-on activities really helps get people become familiar with ACAC and excited to be involved.
- We're looking for folks to join the Marketing committee, and have a slot that had originally been filled by a liaison to the Cultural District Managing Partnership, thought that has now been absorbed by ACAC so the role could be redefined to fill another need
- Discussion about the bylaw requirements for Commissioners and ideas and opportunities to help improve Commissioner attendance and engagement.

9) NEW BUSINESS

- Nicole Cuff had a pleasant discussion with the Town Manager and will go before the Selectboard on Monday to receive her appointment.
- From Terry Holt, the December newsletter is to go out this weekend to promote the event next week. Newsletter updates requested by Friday evening at the latest.

Meeting adjourned 8:43pm

Respectfully submitted by Brian McMurray